



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Lava Beds  
National Monument

PO Box 1240  
Tulelake, CA 96134

Mike Reynolds  
Superintendent  
530-667-8101  
mike\_reynolds@nps.gov

---

# Lava Beds National Monument News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 7, 2014

## **Lava Beds National Monument and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge Team Up to Clean Up**

TULELAKE, California--The nine mile stretch of Hill Road from the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters to Lava Beds National Monument got a helping hand this May Day, as 39 participants from the two agencies picked up over 30 bags worth of trash in cooperation with the Siskiyou County roads department who provided trash bags and picked up and disposed of the trash.

The morning began with a historical account of the area known as Gillem's Bluff, just inside the entrance of Lava Beds National Monument. Listeners learned about the positioning of the US Army at this location in the 1870's as they battled with Captain Jack and his band of Modocs, who were entrenched just east at the Stronghold, a geologic fortress. The Gillem's Camp site was later occupied by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who built much of the monument's infrastructure. After absorbing a bit of cultural history, participants donned brightly colored safety vests and scoured stretches of historic Hill Road, which winds its way through the wetlands and croplands of the Tule Lake Basin of northeast California. The Refuge is in the heart of the pacific flyway, and is one of the most important migratory bird locations on the west coast.

Collected trash included many aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, agricultural debris, and a myriad of assorted items ranging from paper to vehicle parts. Lava Beds' Chief of Natural Resources, Nancy Nordensten, noted along the way that she had recently observed bird nests which contained bits of blue shredded plastic, often used to bundle bales of hay. Significant amounts of this material were collected along the road shoulders, along with cans, bottles and lots of other trash.

Trash collectors enjoyed lunch at the Tule Lake Refuge in the newly remodeled Dave Menke Education Center, formerly the Duck Hospital, located at the Discovery Marsh parking area. The building was constructed in 1937 and used to treat ducks recovering from cholera and botulism.

The agencies, who share a geographic border in Siskiyou County, enjoyed the opportunity to work together for a common community cause. The mission of the National Park Service is preservation, while the Fish and Wildlife Service is a conservation agency. While the strategies are different, the ultimate goal is the same: protecting the nation's natural and cultural resources. In the spirit of this belated Earth Day event, everyone is encouraged to dispose of litter properly, for the health of our planet.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

###

Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email [labe\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:labe_interpretation@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/labe](http://www.nps.gov/labe). Also, visit the park's Facebook and Twitter pages.